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25X1A

USIB-D-46.4/16
(COMIREX-D-11.1/1)
3 June 1968
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UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

MEMORANDUM FOR THE UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

SUBJECT : Requirements Affecting the NRP Five-Year Plan

REFERENCE : USIB-D-46.4/12, 1 March 1968, Limited Distribution,
(Approved and recorded in USIB-M-500, Secretary's
Note #1, 14 March 1968)

1. The attached memorandum from the Chairman, Committee on Imagery Requirements and Exploitation (COMIREX), submitting comments on requirements for the collection of reconnaissance imagery "that should be considered in the next NRP budget and in the five-year plan", is in response to the directive from the Chairman, United States Intelligence Board (USIB) as circulated in Tab C of the reference.

2. It is not planned to schedule this item on a USIB agenda unless requested to do so by a member by the close of business 10 June 1968.

3. In the absence of such a request, it will be recorded as of that date that USIB noted the attached COMIREX comments and referred them to the National Reconnaissance Office for information and guidance.

Executive Secretary

25X1A

Attachment

25X1A

NRO review(s)
completed.

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31 May 1968
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MEMORANDUM FOR: The United States Intelligence Board

SUBJECT: Requirements Affecting the NRP
Five-Year Plan

- REFERENCES:
- a. Memorandum from Chairman, USIB, to Chairman, SIGINT Committee, and Chairman, COMIREX, subject: USIB Guidance for NRP Reconnaissance, 14 March 1968 [redacted]
 - b. USIB-D-46.4/3 (COMIREX-D-13.7/4), 5 January 1968; Memoranda for Holders of USIB-D-46.4/3 dated 30 January 1968, 14 February 1968, and 5 March 1968
 - c. USIB-D-46.4/13 (COMIREX-D-14.4/1), 27 March 1968
 - d. COMOR-D-13/46-7, 6 July 1965
 - e. USIB-D-41.13/30 (COMOR-D-13/56), 27 December 1965
 - f. Memorandum for Holders of USIB-D-41.15/79 (COMOR-D-48/115), 8 November 1966

25X1A

1. In accordance with a directive from the Chairman, USIB, (Reference a.), COMIREX is submitting comments on requirements for the collection of reconnaissance imagery "that should be considered in the next NRP budget and in the five-year plan."

25X1A

25X1A

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USIB-D-46.4/16

(COMIREX-D-092-68)

31 May 1968

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2. On 5 January 1968 (Reference b.) COMIREX analyzed the potential contributions of image-forming satellite reconnaissance to the problem of warning and indications. Systems analyses are now being performed by NRO on ways and means of meeting the requirements parameters initially outlined by COMIREX for such reconnaissance, including projected costs, development times, and performance characteristics. These studies are generating new or refined concepts of image-forming satellite reconnaissance which could significantly alter the mix of reconnaissance programs planned over the long-term.

3. On 27 March 1968 (Reference c.) COMIREX presented its recommendations concerning requirements for [redacted] surveillance of targets in the Soviet Bloc and Communist China. This paper was developed for the purpose of expressing the pattern of our probable needs over a period of about five years. It is the best guidance concerning our requirements for [redacted] during the next five years that we can provide at this time. Further refinement should be possible when the NRO completes its review of the impact of this requirement on satellite operations.

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4. We believe the statement of essential elements of information prepared for COMOR in July 1965 (Reference d.) and used in support of its report on the meaning of and need for higher resolution (Reference e.) is still generally valid as a statement of the ground resolution needed to provide the information specified, and should provide useful guidance to the extent that such information is of value to the NRO. In the course of our implementation of the National Tasking Plan, however, we are carrying out a comprehensive review of the elements of information derivable from imagery which should result in a considerably more detailed restatement of those elements within the next year or two.

5. A restatement of our requirements for imagery in support of mapping, charting, and geodesy is being forwarded to USIB in a separate paper. This restatement recommends some minor modifications to existing requirements.

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25X1A

6. On 8 November 1966, USIB approved a plan for using the KH-4 primarily in a search mode (Reference f)

25X1A

25X1A

a. eighty to ninety percent of built-up areas (6.8 million square nautical miles) of the Soviet Bloc and Communist China each six months, and

b. approximately 75 percent of the undeveloped areas (2.8 million square nautical miles) of the Soviet Bloc and Communist China annually.

At the present time our search effort has provided appropriate coverage of approximately 67.0 percent of the built-up area during the past six months and approximately 66.7 percent of the underdeveloped areas during the past year. This method of expressing requirements for search in terms of percentage of coverage required during a given period of time has been in use for a number of years and has served as a useful concept for assessing the adequacy of our current coverage of the Bloc. We have noted, however, that during the years in which this concept has been followed, there has been a tremendous improvement in our knowledge of reconnaissance objectives in the Bloc as a result of repetitive search coverage

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With this good baseline, it takes relatively less search than formerly to maintain the same assurance of detecting important new developments. There is a need to refine the statement of relationship between the broad area coverage capabilities involved in the existing search requirements and the narrower target coverage implied in the requirements. As we noted in our

25X1
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31 May 1968

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statement of requirements for high resolution photography (Reference c.), some needs for surveillance can now be met by the broad area coverage capabilities of the KH-4 system.

25X1A

25X1A

7. We have also noted that during this time there have been a number of periods, such as the present, in which the statistical figures reporting coverage fell substantially below the stated requirement with no apparent detriment to intelligence. As a result of these two factors, we have under study alternative concepts for expressing the search requirement. In the course of this study, we will attempt to develop a concept which will give senior officials adequate information for continued confidence in our reconnaissance program while at the same time permitting a refinement of this requirement.

8. We expect that during the next five years there will continue to be situations in which it would be desirable to employ the U-2, SR-71, or other suitable airborne vehicles for the purpose of acquiring reconnaissance imagery. The volume of this requirement will be affected primarily by the world situation, but, as noted above, the successful operation of a multi-purpose system in accordance with the COMIREX study of warning and indications needs (Reference b.) might permit a considerable reduction in the requirement for airborne reconnaissance, particularly during periods of crisis.

9. We are continuing to study possible applications of varied types of imagery to intelligence problems. We are currently assessing the results of the recent trial of bi-spectral imagery and may develop requirements for color and other forms of imagery during the next five years.

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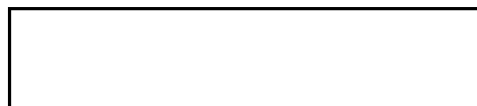
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Chairman

Committee on Imagery Requirements and Exploitation

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